



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



PUGETSOUND
PARTNERSHIP



Restoring Washington's Estuaries

Presentation to the Governor's Council on Goal 3

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Todd Hass, Puget Sound Partnership, Implementation Manager
Paul Cereghino, NOAA Restoration Center
Commissioner Ron Wesen, Skagit County

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Why Value Estuaries & Restoration?

Multi-billion dollar

Industries:

recreation & tourism

salmon and shellfish

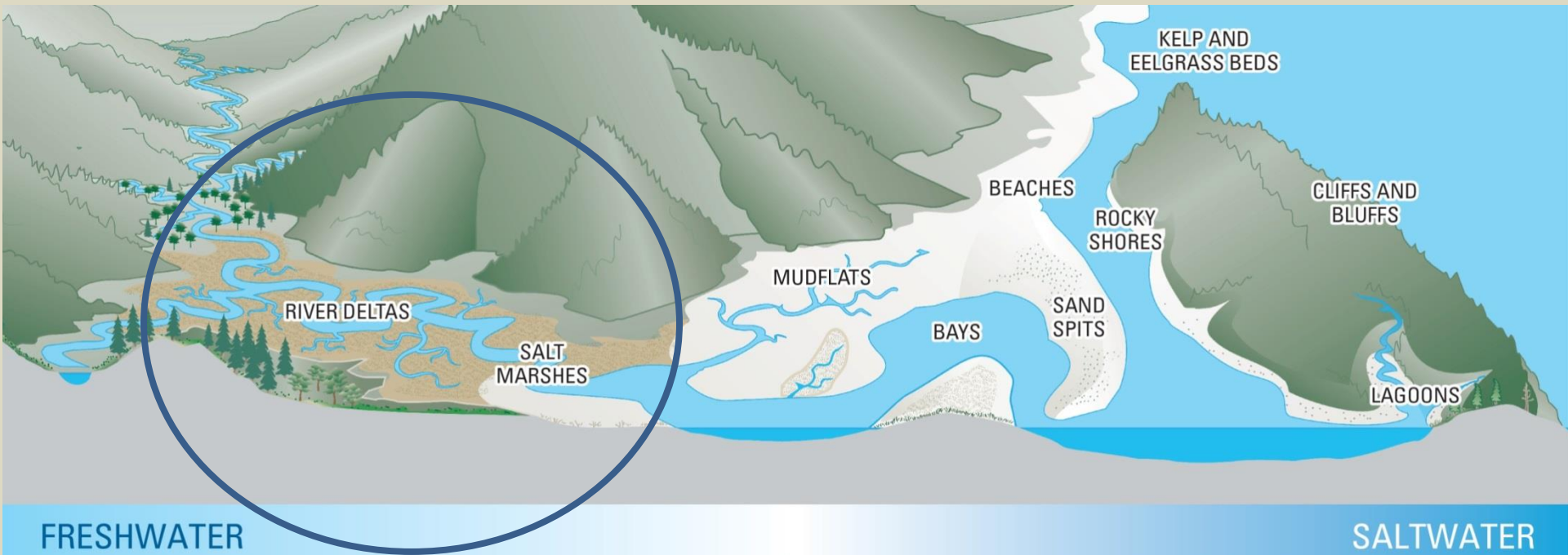
fisheries

Average of 17 local jobs are created **per \$1 million invested** in restoration programs like ESRP and PSAR (*Washington OFM 2014*)



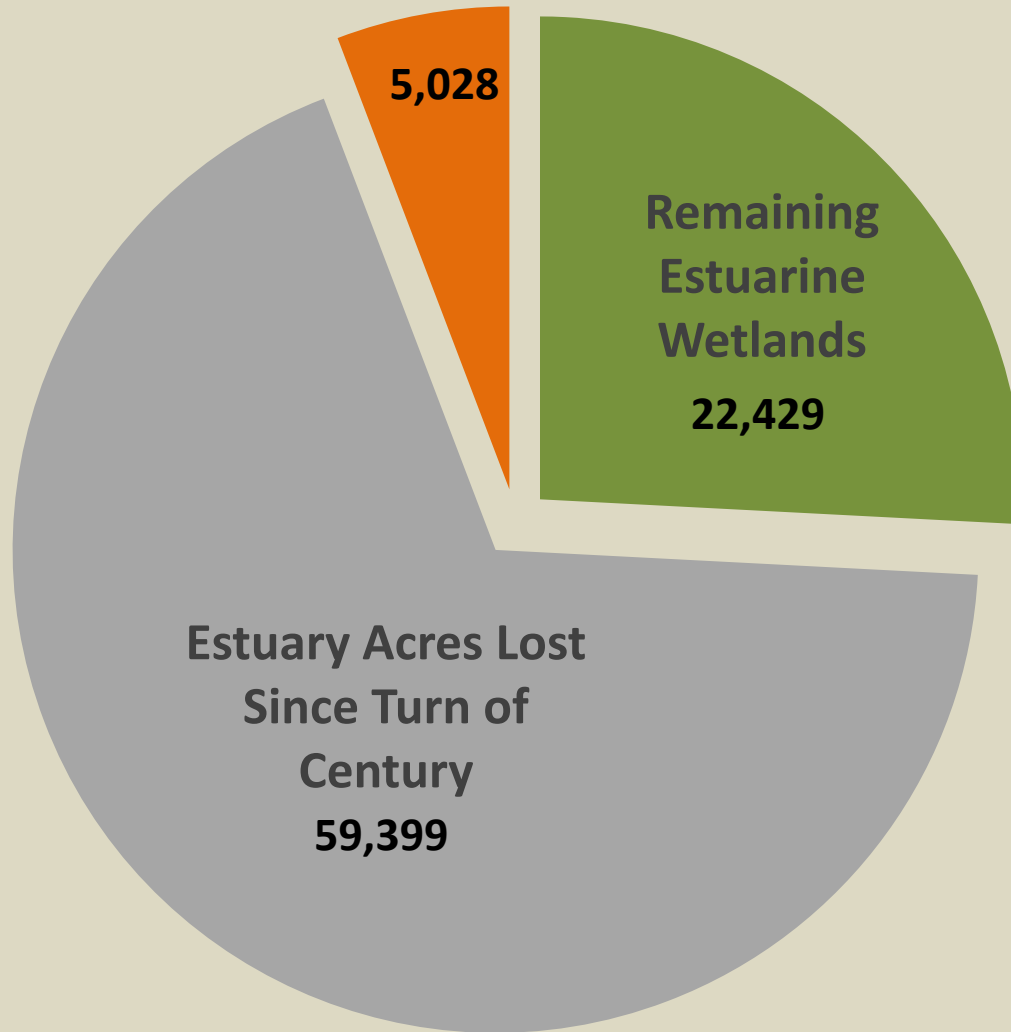
Why Prioritize Estuary Restoration?

- **Endangered salmon** – irreplaceable habitat
- **Migratory birds** - feeding and resting
- **Biodiversity** – unique fish and wildlife habitats
- Historical construction of dikes, levees, and ports has converted habitat and altered sustaining physical processes
- ***Rare opportunity for large-scale restoration with multiple benefits***



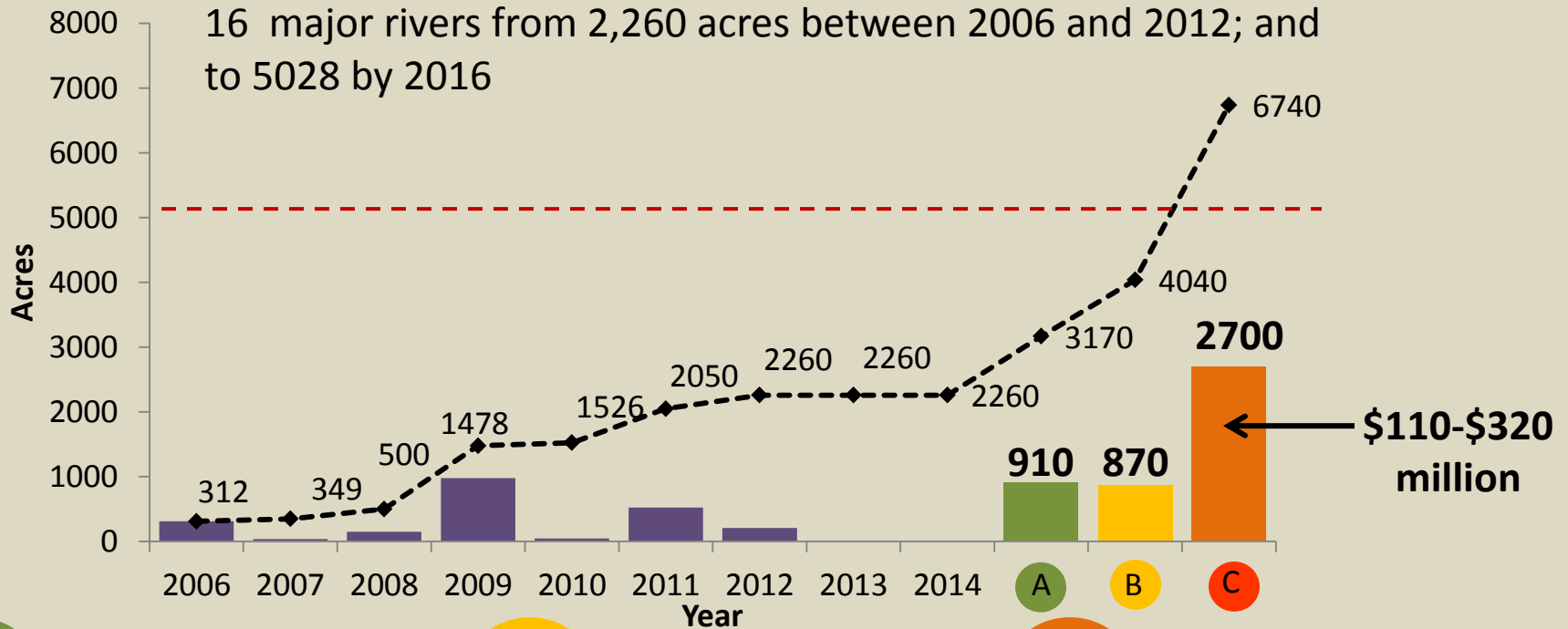
Restoration Targets

(4.4.e.) “Increase the acreage of Puget Sound estuaries restored in the 16 major rivers from 2,260 acres between 2006 and 2012; and to 5028 by 2016”



Restoration Targets

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A

~1-3 Years

- Three Crabs Restoration
- Fir Island Farms
- Skokomish Phase Three
- Everett Riverfront
- Smith Island Restoration
- Blue Heron Slough
- Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration
- Steamboat Slough

B

Possible in 3-8 Years

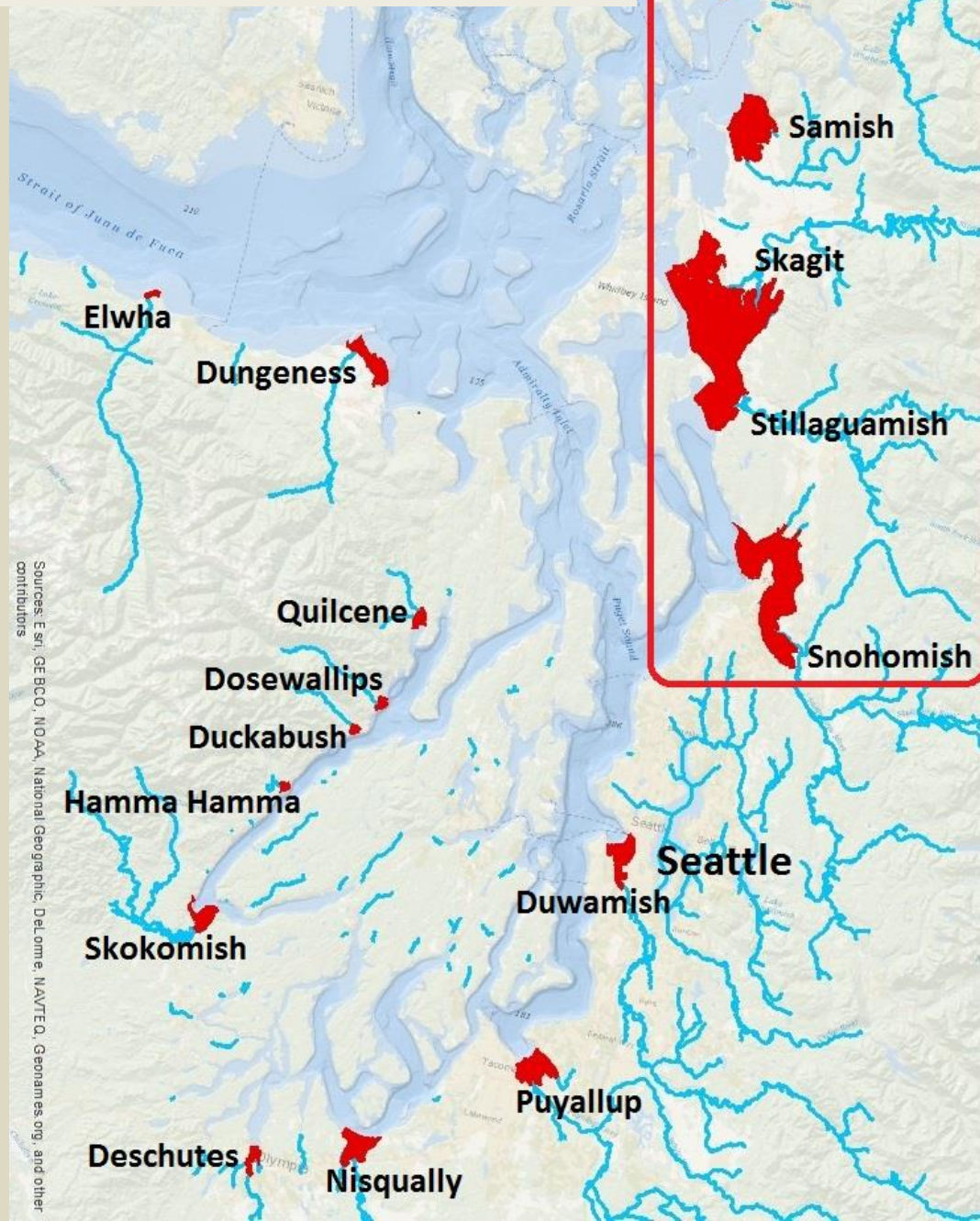
- Diking District 6
- zis a ba Restoration
- Leque Island Restoration
- Deepwater Slough Phase 2

C

Unknown

- Lower Nooksack Project
- Union Pacific Setback Levee
- Thein Farm
- Ellingsen Restoration
- Telegraph Slough
- North Fork Levee Setback
- Everett Marshlands

Puget Sound's River Deltas



This map illustrates the Puget Sound River Deltas and the designated Eelgrass Focus Areas. The map shows the coastline of Puget Sound with various river mouths. Four specific river deltas are highlighted in red and labeled: Nooksack Delta, Skagit Delta, Stillaguamish Delta, and Snohomish Delta. Each of these red areas is also enclosed within a green oval, indicating they are Eelgrass Focus Areas. A legend at the bottom left clarifies the symbols: a green oval represents 'Eelgrass Focus Areas' and a red rectangle represents 'Puget Sound River Deltas'.

Nooksack Delta

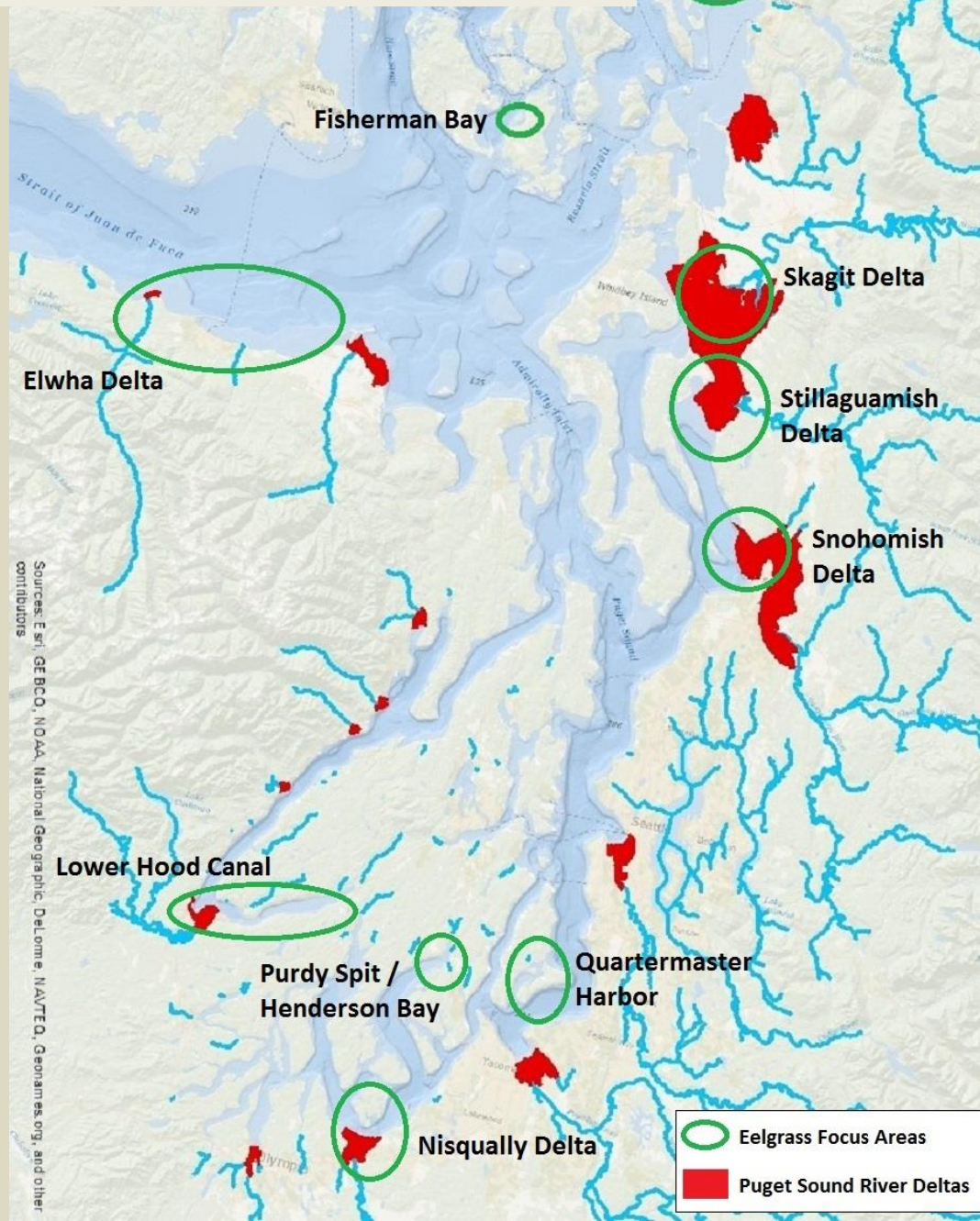
Skagit Delta

Stillaguamish Delta

Snohomish Delta

Eelgrass Focus Areas

Puget Sound River Deltas



Coordinated Investment

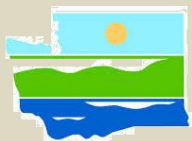
A Lean Opportunity



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PUGET SOUND
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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington



WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and
Conservation Office



ESTUARY & SALMON
RESTORATION PROGRAM

PSAR **FUND**

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration



Floodplains by Design

• REDUCING RISK, RESTORING RIVERS •



WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

**Salmon Recovery
Funding Board**



Federal Funding Opportunity



Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP)

1

no action

2

11 sites



3

18 sites

7 DELTA SITES

- 1) Beaconsfield Feeder Bluff
- 2) **Deepwater Slough**
- 3) Deer Harbor Estuary
- 4) Dugwalla Bay
- 5) **Everett Marshland**
- 6) Livingston Bay
- 7) **Milltown Island**
- 8) **Nooksack River Delta**
- 9) **North Fork Skagit River Delta**
- 10) **Telegraph Slough**
- 11) **Spencer Island**



Complex Challenges

Locals tell us there are six ingredients for success

Funding

Land



Politics

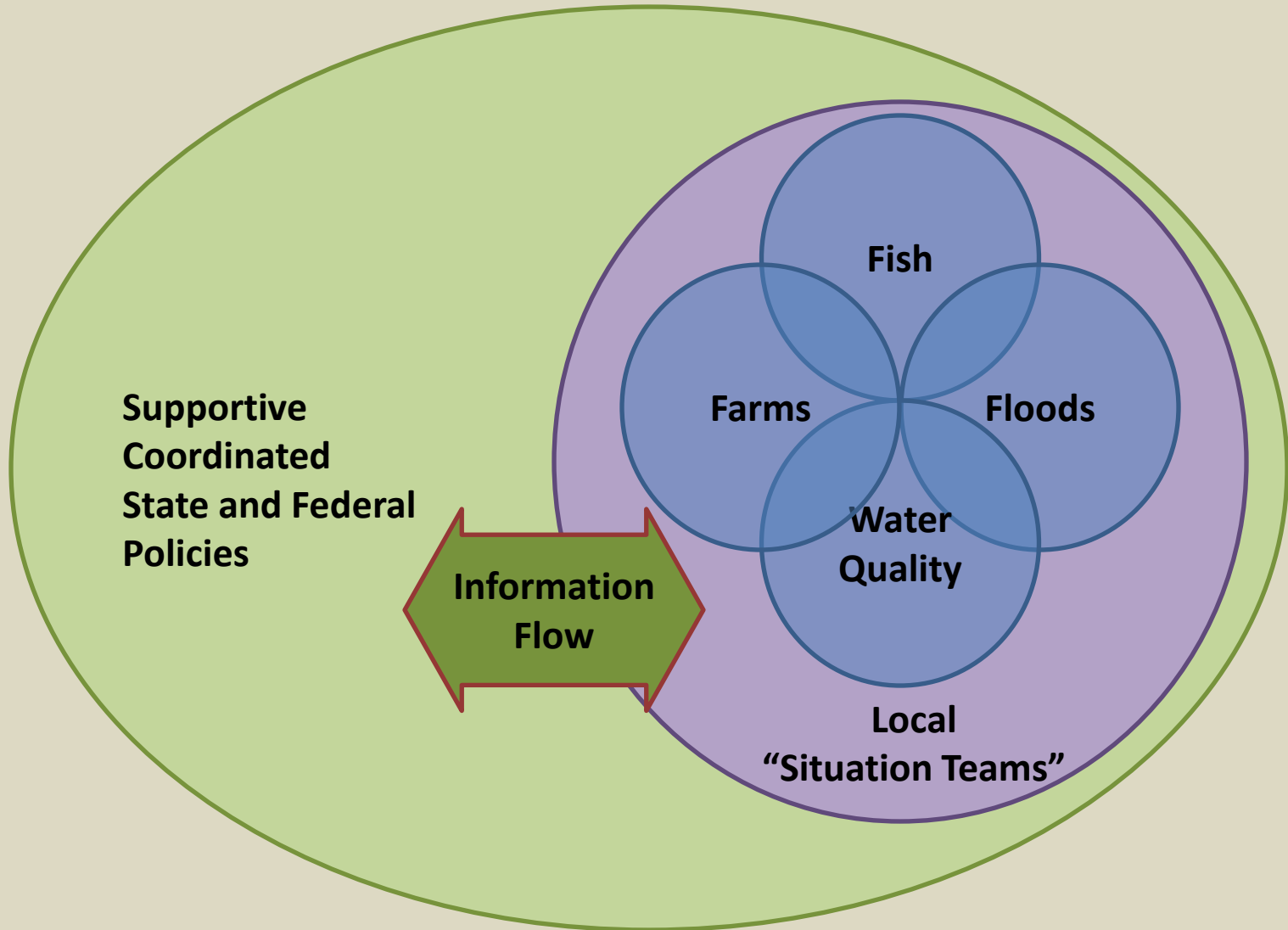


Knowledge

Capacity

Permitting

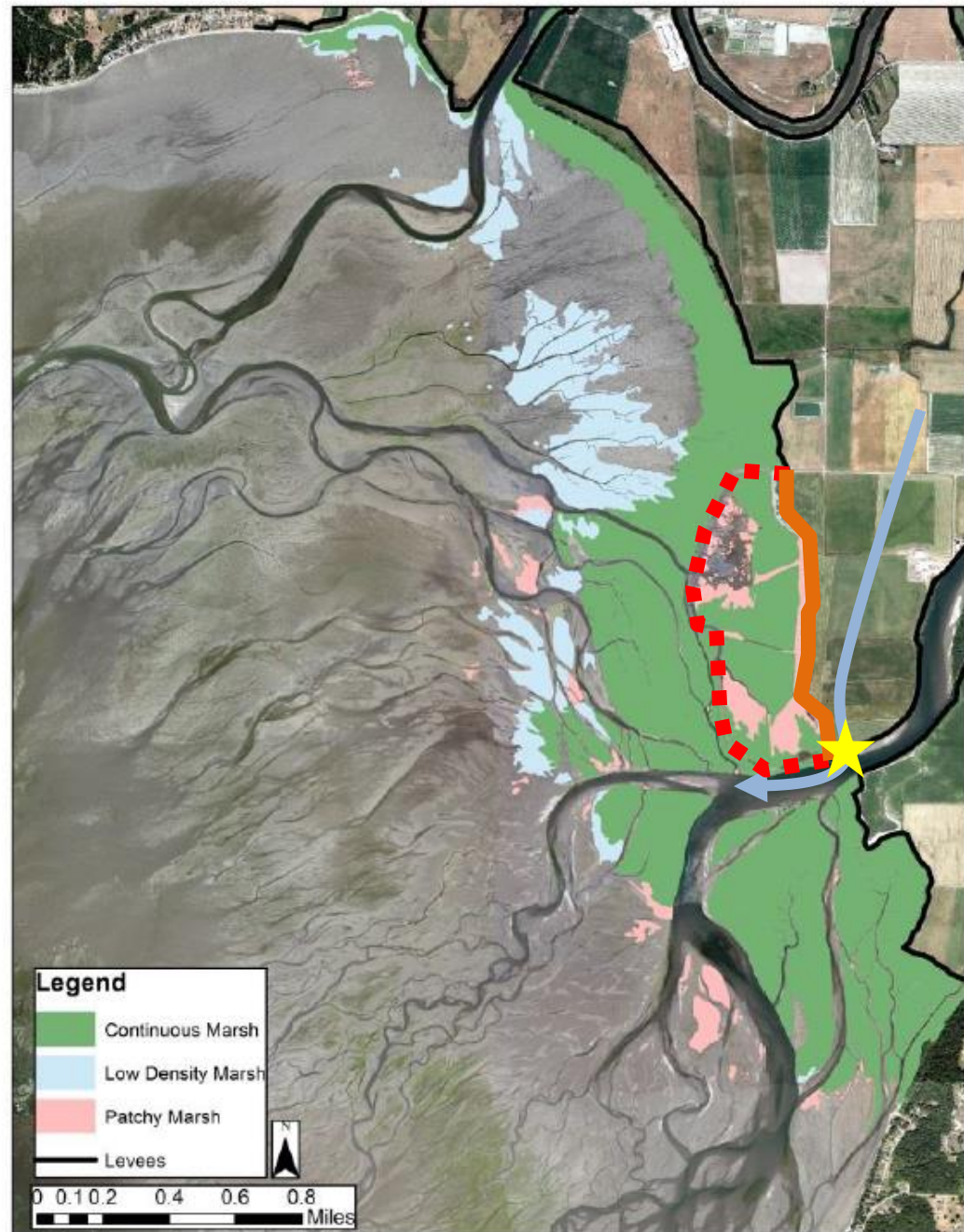
Fostering Innovation



Port Susan Restoration

- TNC Leadership
- Collaborative Design
- Low Value Land
- Flood Gate
- Local Support

Tidal Marsh Habitats - 2014



What is needed for the future?

1. “Coordinated Investment”

- Farm, Fish and Flood Initiative (Skagit)
- Snohomish Sustainable Lands Strategy
- Nooksack SWIF/Restoration Integration

2. Grant Administration Streamlining

- “Lean” management opportunity
- Support multiple benefit projects

3. Thank you for being a champion for restoration of “agricultural estuaries” nationally and locally

Reciprocity

Stewardship of fisheries becomes part
of an agricultural land ethic

Stewardship of agriculture becomes
part of an ecosystem restoration ethic

Ron Wesen
Skagit County Commissioner